

# NEWSLETTER

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Volume 3  
Number 2  
Apr./May/June  
1995

CREATING AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT - THROUGH A UNIVERSAL MEDIUM

## Research: Quest For A Cure



*Republic Of Niger*  
(See PHILADEMICS page 2)

## PHILADEMICS

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The two stamps featured on the front page of this issue point out the need for a worldwide effort in research relating to the AIDS pandemic. Now in its second decade, and still no cure or vaccine found, research must be conducted on the various strains of the virus that have developed in different areas of the globe. Hopefully, by gaining control over one strain, clues may be revealed that may help in understanding other strains.

On these two stamps from the Republic of Niger, both the 85F and 110F depict similar images, stressing the importance of research to be carried on in whatever countries possible and with whatever means. At this point in time we do not know where the answer may be found.

One must remember that these stamps were issued in February of 1989, over six years ago, when the global consciousness, through the World Health Organization's efforts, was still in its infancy.

According to the Center for Disease Control's statistics of number of reported cases (June 1993 for Republic of Niger) 921 cases or 133.7 per million have been reported. However, we must keep in mind the methods of reporting can only be as accurate as the facilities available for reporting and testing. Therefore, when looking at figures one must make allowance for under-diagnosis, incomplete reporting, and reporting delay.

Several other countries have issued stamps that also depict the element of research on them including Andorra, Brazil, and Maldives, to mention a few.

### How Do We Function ?

The AIDS ON STAMPS Newsletter is put together with the hopes of creating a better understanding of this horrific disease by sharing through the philatelic world, the extent of this pandemic. As a person living with HIV/AIDS now for over nine years, this topical area of stamp collecting has proven to be very therapeutic. The subscription fee of \$10.00 (four quarterly issues) sees half of that donated to AIDS charities in British Columbia with the other half helping to defray postage & production costs. Please make cheques or money orders payable to COMTRU VENTURES.

### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

#### ISSUE DEADLINE

January 25	January 10
April 25	April 10
July 25	July 10
October 25	October 10

### **POINT TO PONDER:**

I made a mental note -  
but forgot where I put it !

### QUESTION CORNER

**Q:** Are there other publications that cover AIDS related philatelic material?

**A:** Actually the Lambda Philatelic Journal, is the quarterly publication of the ATA study unit, GLHSC (Gay & Lesbian History on Stamps Club) and offers information on AIDS related materials on a fairly regular basis. They can be reached at: Editor, LPJ, PO Box 515981, Dallas, TX, 75251-5981.

## GUEST SPEAKER

### The Search For Elusive Postmarks By Myron N. Slotsky

Editor's Note: The following is an abridged version of a longer article submitted by Mr. Slotsky. Since it's original writing a total of 119 stations are on record with us. Anyone wishing a copy of the list and the full article please send a #10 SASE with request.

I have been a "Worldwide" stamp collector for many years. However, as is the case with many collectors, you quickly realize that it is just about impossible to collect all stamps from every country today. There are simply too many of them. In fact, it is almost impossible to collect just one copy of every stamp issued from every country in any current recent year. As a result, even though I call myself a "Worldwide" collector, I have been concentrating on the United States, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Israel. All of these countries produce a lot of stamps. Because I make my own albums using stock binders (Scott) and Border A Quad Pages, it takes a lot of time. Every once in awhile, I get bored with the collection and want to try something having to do with stamp collecting that I have not tried before.

In August of 1993, I started to think about what I could collect that would not take too long and that could be completed in a reasonable amount of time. Then I read the announcement of a United States AIDS stamp to be issued on December 01, 1993. Well, it did not stop there. A total of four different articles appeared in Linn's Stamp News concerning the issuing of this stamp on December 01, 1993. This was then followed by an article on the AIDS stamp by Fred W. Baumann, who writes the Postmark Pursuit column in Linn's each week.



Fig.1 WAD Generic Cancel used nationwide

As soon as the November 22, 1993, issue of Linn's came out and I saw that there would be 40 post offices across the country issuing a special AIDS stamp cancel, I became very interested. The AIDS stamp has a very significant interest for me. Since I retired in June of 1993, I have been doing more volunteer work with the Good Samaritan Project which helps people with AIDS, or who are HIV positive, or their families, friends, and loved ones in the Kansas City area and surrounding communities. I have also been working as a volunteer pharmacist at the Kansas City Free Health Center, when they run their Advanced AIDS Clinics.

I thought it might be interesting to try for a cancel from each issuing post office, but I was not sure exactly how you go about doing it. I called Fred Baumann at Linn's. He said that you simply self-address and stamp a #6 envelope with the AIDS stamp, place it in a #10 envelope and address it to: Postmaster, World AIDS Day Station, Street Address, City, State Zip.



Fig. 2 WAD 1993 New York, NY

I did exactly what Fred recommended and when December 01, 1993, came along, I ran down to the Post Office and purchased several sheets of AIDS stamps. All of my letters were stamped and mailed on December 01 right at the Blue Valley Post Office in Overland Park, Kansas. As soon as I had done this, my next issue of Linn's arrived. In Fred's column, he now mentions that there are ANOTHER 14 postal stations providing the special cancel. I quickly prepared MORE envelopes. The next issue of Linn's then described 2 more stations. I started to think that this was now getting to be a bit expensive just in postage and that it had to stop sometime. Well, I was wrong! The December 20th issue of Linn's listed 42 MORE stations. It was getting to the point that I never thought the list would end, but that was the last of the official listed postal stations providing the special cancel.

(Continued on page 4)



Fig. 3 WAD 1993 Kansas

What was the end result? Although Munice, Indiana, and Plainfield, Indiana, had applied for the cancel, they were not participating. I also never heard ANYTHING from Esmond, RI, nor Providence, RI, but instead I received two cancels from Smithfield, RI, a postal station that I had never written.

Of the 98 mailings to the various reported stations, 76 were received back and were either protected or in good shape even though they were not returned protected. Of the remaining stations, 14 were written to twice and 6 had to be written to 3 times. These were stations that were either slow in getting the returns back or they came back unprotected and as a result, double canceled, killer canceled, bar coded, etc.



Fig. 4 WAD Newark, NJ

MANY envelopes were received UN-PROTECTED, yet came through in PERFECT shape. Some were received with a SECOND postmark printed over the December 01, 1993 postmark. Those were returned for replacement. One envelope was received totally mutilated. It looked as though it had been through some type of destruction machinery! Several were received in heat-sealed bags.

I thought that I would not receive anything else. It was now more than 5 months after my

first request. Wrong again! On May 03, 1994, I received 2 of the envelopes that I had sent to UCLA Station in California.



Fig. 5 WAD 1993 Boxed Generic Cancel

I finished with an album full of these postmarked covers and also added FDC from all suppliers of covers that I could find for the AIDS stamp. In addition, I made an album of all of the postal communications' oddities that were accumulated as a result of this collection. Would I do it all over again? Probably, but next time I most likely would choose a collection with fewer postal stations to deal with. Incidentally, when I made up the cover album, I added a note at the start of each page for a given state to indicate how many AIDS cases they had as of December, 1992 (the latest available data as of March, 1994.)

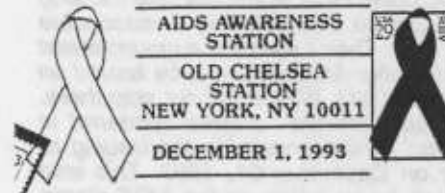


Fig. 6 WAD Old Chelsea Station, NY.

### DID YOU KNOW ?

> Two more countries have announced plans to issue AIDS related stamps as part of their philatelic programs later this year. In it's Health Matters Series, Cyprus will include a stamp dealing with AIDS in September. And Belgium has announced a Semi-Postal issue in the Fight Against AIDS for November.



## ISSUES A THROUGH Z

NEPAL - To commemorate World AIDS Day on December 01, 1993, Nepal released a single stamp (value R.1) depicting the AIDS virus and incorporating the World Health Organization's theme for the 1993 World AIDS Day: "Time To Act," (Scott # 521)

NIGER - Featured on our front cover of this issue, this set of two (values 85F and 110F) was issued on February 28, 1989, as part of the republic's fight against AIDS. (Scott # 794-95).

PERU - To acknowledge World AIDS Day in 1993, Peru released a single S/.1.50 value stamp to encourage the prevention of AIDS. (Scott # 1064)

PHILIPPINES - On December 12, 1994 the fourth AIDS awareness stamp depicting the red ribbon was released as a means of AIDS Awareness in the Philippines. The p2 single stamp very tastefully shows the planet earth with a red ribbon over the location of the Philippines. It was released in conjunction with the Department of Health.

RUSSIA - This 90pys value graphically depicts a person caught up in a splatter of blood, reminding us of the possible dangers of being exposed to body fluids in unpredicted circumstances. This was issued on November 25, 1993. (Scott# 730).

### *IN MEMORY*

*We are saddened to report  
the passing of one of our readers  
and collecting enthusiasts,  
MIKELL GOETSCH,  
of Cleveland, Ohio, who succumbed to  
AIDS on May 11, 1995, at the early age  
of 26 years.*

## BACK FROM THE HILL

One of the reasons for this issue being a bit later than usual is the fact that we were in Ottawa at the first of this month. Our trip had more than one purpose and we are pleased to report that we feel we made significant strides forward..

The visit started off with our participation at ORAPEX'95, Ottawa's annual national three day show. We managed to spend the entire first day looking and studying the close to 200 frames of exhibits....truly a vast selection of material to digest. And of course the large number of dealer tables (30 or more) offered up an opportunity to find the odd little treasure to add to our collection.

An added highlight to ORAPEX'95 was their hosting of Canada's 3rd National Philatelic Literature Exhibition which held well over 100 competitive items and close to a dozen non-competitive ones.

Finally the jury had reached its verdicts and the Judging Critique got underway. Having been forewarned by several friends in the philatelic community, I felt I was prepared for the expected harsh critique I might receive from the North American renowned topical judge, Mary Ann Owens. Not! To my dismay, several words of encouragement and even praise accompanied with a Vermeil (in the MOPHILA category), an ATA Silver (2nd Best Topical), and the APS Medal of Excellence for post 1940 category!

Some may not agree, but in remembering Rule #1 in the exhibiting world :... who am I to argue with the jury?

### QUARTERLY QUOTE

**"Everybody wants to go to Heaven,  
but nobody wants to die!"**

## YOUR Two Cents Worth:

In this issue we are going to present a few quotes from some of the "undecided" or "unfavorable letters" we have, in fact received, from a few of our elected representatives! We leave you to draw your own conclusions.

*"This does not mean that I support every project or scheme that comes along, just because the acronym "AIDS" is attached to it. Frankly, postage stamps do not seem like a particularly effective, pressing or appropriate vehicle to raise awareness of AIDS."...The Hon. Ron Ghitter, Q.C., The Senate of Canada.*

*"Thank you for taking the time to bring your concerns to my attention. Due to the constraints of time and resources, I will be focusing primarily on the needs of my own constituents."... Ken Epp, MP, Elk Island.*

*"I assure you that I am quite aware of the seriousness of this disease; however, I would point out that threatening letters to Parliamentarians is hardly the way to garner support."...Deborah Grey, MP, Beaver River.*

*"I am fully supportive and committed to the government's efforts to support AIDS awareness campaigns and AIDS research, although I do not feel that an AIDS Awareness stamp will be very effective.".....Anne McLellan, PC, MP, Edmonton Northwest.*

*"Secondly, I resent being threatened and placed in a position of saluting the politically correct flag to satisfy the whims of someone with whom I have never corresponded. Supporting a stamp program proves nothing one way or the other."... Chuck Strahl, MP, Fraser Valley East.*

## KNOCKING AT THEIR DOOR!

*As we mentioned in our article entitled "Back From The Hill", our trip to Ottawa was a result of much behind the scenes preparation over the past several months as we pursued a more "high-level" approach to bringing our cause to the direct attention of those we felt might be most influential.*

*We managed to make the most of our short time while in Ottawa and held direct meetings with The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, The National AIDS Secretariat, and a representative in Mr. David Dingwall's Office (Minister responsible for Canada Post). To our surprise and delight, representatives from Canada Post were actually present during our meeting in the minister's office!.*

*On each occasion we were able to present a brief portfolio/history of the AIDS On Stamps Project from its beginning back in January of 1992 and hopefully got the message across of just what potential there is within the country's postal system to bring about AIDS awareness, education, and support.....our primary goal in this project!*

*It would also appear that perhaps a more important message came across during these presentations. The parties concerned have realized just what an embarrassment it might be if Canada were not to issue an AIDS awareness stamp particularly in 1996 when Canada is hosting the XIth International Conference! Also, seeing, firsthand (and from viewing the award-winning AIDS exhibit), philatelic material from nearly 50 countries worldwide that already exists, points out a blatant omission on Canada's part!*

*You might say "it's now in the hands of the Gods."*

## IN FOCUS

In this issue we take a look at three different AIDS Cinderella issues from three different countries. First we look at our most recent find which we came across during our trip earlier this month to Ottawa, at Orapex '95. These were issued out of Toronto back in 1987 as part of a fundraising effort which ran during the month of October and was to be the first of an annual research campaign fund raiser. No specific fee or price was set, but it was suggested that a donation be made in return for the "labels" (stamps). These may be the earliest known from Canada. If anyone has any further information on these we would appreciate hearing from you.



Fig. 1 shows "First Annual Research Campaign" label.

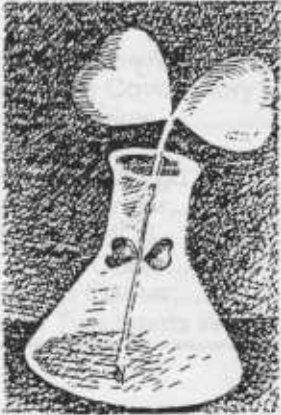


Fig. 2 shows the "Join Hands Conquer AIDS" issue that is being sold by several California AIDS Service organizations. Known as "The Stamp" Desert AIDS Project, it was started in 1992 by Bill Lile.



Fig. 3 shows the Lions Club of Khumalo, Zimbabwe, "seal" that was used as an AIDS awareness campaign in that country.

# Cover Story



CAMPANHA DE PREVENÇÃO  
CONTRA A AIDS

1º dia de circulação  
Empresa Brasileira de Correios e Telégrafos



In keeping with our cover theme of "Research: Quest For A Cure", this particular cover from Brazil illustrates the need for a campaign worldwide to find a prevention for the spread of AIDS through means of laboratory research. This particular stamp and FDC was issued on April 06, 1990.

First Day Of Issue



AIDS Awareness

"Let's DOH it"



Also, in some countries, as is illustrated here in this FDC from the Philippines, awareness campaigns are promoted through the Department of Health and in conjunction with the postal system of that country.